

THE METER

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Issue 26



Vice presidential recommendations made, official visits loom.

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This professor has set many TSU firsts as a student and educator.

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Relay for Life means more than just a walk to this TSU dean.

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Sudden death was the only way to end the Blue and White game.

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SPAIN'S CONQUEST

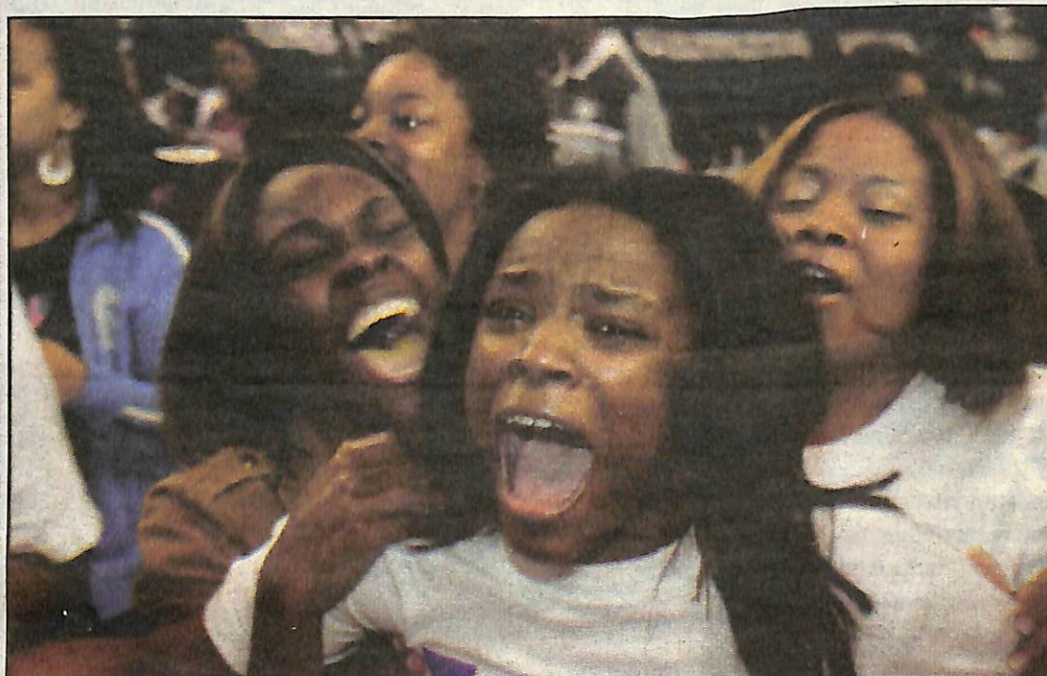


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Before the announcement of the last Miss TSU 2006-07 candidate, Dairanetta Spain (center) celebrates with friends Dana Ivory (left) and Malia Jackson (right) after hearing her vote total on Friday, April 7. Spain won the position by 469 votes.

Miss TSU, SGA posts elected

By Eddie R. Cole Jr.
Editor in Chief

The crown of Miss TSU 2006-07 was a runaway victory by more than 450 votes when 2006 student election results were announced during the annual Relay for Life cancer walk on Friday, April 7, in the Gentry Center.

Dorothy Lockridge, interim vice president of Student Affairs, announced Dairanetta Spain the winner of the Miss TSU race as Ayodeji "DJ" Olojo and Matthew Evans were named winners of the Student Government Association presidential and vice presidential posts, respectively.

See "Spain" on page 6

Financial cram ends work study

By Madelyn Ragland
Campus News Editor

Last month, TSU's \$1.4 million dollar work study program, which provides students jobs on and off campus, came to a halt, when funds for the program ran out, according to university financial aid officials.

Michael Jones, TSU's interim director of financial aid, said the program, which is funded by the federal government, was not anticipated to come to an abrupt end before the end of the spring 2006 semester. However, he realized in mid-March that funds were going to be cut.

Even though the program's end is being attributed to a shortage of federal funds, some TSU students are upset that the university hasn't located other means of compensating work study students.

"I am angry at TSU because we were supposed to have money that we are now unable to get," said Dewayne Ward, a junior business administration major from Chicago. "TSU should find other alternative sources to reimburse the stu-

See "Jones" on page 3

Hundreds defy weather to fight cancer

By Madelyn Ragland and
Keith Richardson
Campus News Editor and
Campus News Writer

Despite an afternoon of severe weather conditions, TSU strolled on and hosted its

2006 Relay for Life event to support The American Cancer Society's fight against cancer in the Gentry Center on Friday, April 7.

Two tornados blowing through the metro Nashville area did not put a damper on the event, which saw more than 500 people visit the center to raise money for cancer awareness.

The annual walk, held from 7 p.m. to 7

a.m., featured about 30 organizations, including TSU's residence halls, participating in the fight against cancer. Several groups set up tables and sold food items such as cookies, cupcakes, and drinks, among others.

"I feel that it's an opportunity for me to support and help my residence hall get involved in this event," said Shenitha

See "Eppse" on page 5

Campus News

VP candidates' visits near

By Madelyn Ragland
Campus News Editor

Following two weeks of narrowing down candidates for submission to TSU President Melvin N. Johnson, the vice president of university relations and development search committee made four nominations for consideration to the president, according to committee chairperson Decatur Rogers.

Within the next week, Johnson will be examining the four committee nominations and selecting the finalists who he will invite for a campus visit later this month, according to the selection process schedule. The four recommendations include Phillip Adams, Ulysses Bell, Edwina Harris-Hamby and Shereittee Charles Stokes III.

"I believe that TSU will be well served by whichever one is finally selected to fill this important (vice president) position," said Robert L. Elliott, a committee member and head of the TSU music department.

Elizabeth Varner, a senior social work major from West Helena, Ark., is expecting a lot from all the candidates.

"(The ideal candidate) should be knowledgeable about the needs of TSU," Varner said. "(They should) have the credentials to successfully improve the finances of TSU also."

One candidate, Harris-Hamby, has 30 years of experience in higher education with 20 of those years in an academic affairs department. An alumna of Fisk University and a former doctoral student of Vanderbilt University, she has knowledge of the Nashville community.

"I have close family ties with Nashville," said Harris-Hamby, who has an 83-year-old mother-in-law who currently resides in Nashville.

If selected for the position, Harris-Hamby said she envisions tackling the

position with a team approach. She said TSU shows its success through all its constituents, including alumni, faculty, staff and students.

"Advancing the university is not a one-person responsibility," Harris-Hamby said in an interview to The Meter. "It takes a cohesive and committed team of people, all working together to achieve the same goals and objectives."

Another of the candidates, Stokes, has more than 20 years experience in fundraising. He also said he is a well-rounded candidate to lead an operation of this position, and plans to set up a model program for TSU's advancement process so other institutions can follow.

"It's good to know and it is an honor," Stokes said during a telephone call with The Meter, referring to being a nominated candidate.

The two other candidates were unable to be reached by press time of *The Meter*.

According to the tnstate.edu/executivesearches Web site, the committee members were asked to seek a senior advisor who will address a broad spectrum of the university's internal and external constituencies and participate fully in the life of the campus and larger community while strategically plan-

ning for the institution's advancement and fund raising efforts.

Teresa Phillips, TSU's athletic director and also a member of the committee, said she was up for the challenge and was committed to making the right choice for the university.

"The main objective that I want out of the new (vice president) is the ability to assist all entities of the university in fundraising," Phillips said. "If he or she can produce in that area, then the university will benefit tremendously."

Varner shared a similar sentiment.

"The money brought into the institution could be used for a variety of things such as scholarships, landscaping, and for different programs," Varner said. "Whoever fills this position should be aware of all of that."

**VP University
Relations/Development
visits are scheduled
as following:
April 21, 24-25**

**Provost/Executive Vice President:
April 17-20
Vice President Student Affairs:
April 26-28**

"I believe that TSU will be well served by whichever one is finally selected to fill this important (vice president) position."

-Robert L. Elliot

Events Calendar

Monday	Thursday
Bible Study FPCC Rm 217 7:45 p.m.	Bible Study FPCC Rm 219 7 pm
Tuesday	Friday
Relationship Seminar LEC Aud. 7 pm	6th Annual Multi-cultural Food Festival Kean Gym 11am - 2 pm
Zeta Showcase Kean Gym 8:32 pm	Greek Olympics Gentry Center 6 pm - 8:30 pm
Wednesday	No Classes

The Meter

The Measure of Student Opinion and Sentiment

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MISSION STATEMENT
The Meter's mission is to accurately and responsibly report the "highlights and lowlights" of Tennessee State University and its community so that we may foster positive changes in the world around us, while reflecting the university's multi-cultural student body.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS
The Meter invites submissions by all members of the Tennessee State University community. Timeliness and clarity are factors in selecting material for publication. Materials must adhere to the following guidelines:

- All contributions must be typed and sent by e-mail.
- Opinions and letters should not exceed 400 words.
- The Meter* reserves the right to reject letters, articles, or ads without explanation and to edit others as necessary.

The Meter capitalizes the letter "B" in the word "Black" when it refers to people of African descent in accordance with the Oxford American and other dictionaries.

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Corrections

The Meter regrets errors and will continue to bring readers accurate information.

Campus News

Professor blazes trails as TSU student, educator

By Shauntae White
Campus News Writer

Like many TSU professors, Ernestine Gordon holds helping students achieve academic excellence as a top priority.

However, success within academia is not the only top priority Gordon has for her students — she also wants to prepare them for their futures as well.

"I knew I wouldn't make that much money (teaching)," said Gordon, an adjunct faculty member in the language, literature and philosophy department. "It doesn't matter because I am here for the students."

After the 39 years that Gordon has been teaching freshman English, she explained that she still looks forward to the days when she comes to work and is able to share a voice which reaches out to students.

She said she has a deep passion for all TSU students. In addition to being an alumna herself, she said students should be taken seriously, but they need to learn how to control their voices and their language.

A Springfield, Tenn. native, Gordon

recalled residing in what is now known as

Wilson Hall as a freshman and also being ranked No. 2 in her class when she graduated in 1950.

Gordon later graduated with her master's degree in English from TSU, then Tennessee A&I State, as well. She remembered being one of the first to attend the first graduate classes offered at TSU in 1958.

And today, Gordon's love for her students is evident. Even the state of Tennessee recognized when she was the only African-American of 10 women to be inducted into the 2004 Tennessee Teachers' Hall of Fame.

"She puts her heart into what she does," said Sabrina M. Young, secretary of the language, literature and philosophy department. "You can tell by the way that she talks about her students all the time."

Overall, Gordon said she is pleased with the outcome of her careers as both a student and faculty member at TSU. But she attributes her success as an educator to her parents, who emphasized to her the importance of higher education.

"My parents did not take no for an answer, so I had to not only go to college,



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

Ernestine Gordon shows off photos of her many awards.

but I had to be successful," said Gordon. "It was a privilege to go to school because my parents made sacrifices for me to attend TSU."

Throughout the many years that Gordon has taught at TSU, she has been able to witness the changes and improvements in the administration. But beyond that, with TSU currently undergoing administrative shifts, she explained that the changes have effects on not only the faculty, but on the students as well.

"I believe that the faculty is improv-

ing," Gordon said. "(The faculty) want to be the best. I knew that things were going to be a little different when integration came about, but for the most part (we have) a quality administration."

But as always, Gordon has kept her same philosophy of keeping students first.

Due to the abundance of seniors who reside in the Ford and New Residence Complex, Gordon, along with Gloria Johnson, associate dean of the TSU College of Arts and Sciences, has lectured to students in the campus apartments. She said these lectures have been delivered every year for the past four years about how students should enjoy their futures and their desired careers after graduation.

Eleanor Gordon, an adjunct language, literature and philosophy faculty member, applauded Gordon's dedication to TSU.

"She is a committed and an influential teacher," Eleanor Gordon said. "She has helped to enrich the lives of many students. She has done so much and I am proud to say that I work in the same office as her."

Jones: Once you run out of funds there is nothing for us to do

Continued from page 1

dents."

As of March 31, nearly 900 students were on the work study program, according to Jones. These jobs were issued to eligible students based on their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

But Jones ensures students that the matter is all based on the federal funds — not anything that has occurred within the TSU infrastructure.

"Nothing has happened to work study," Jones said. "(There was) nothing unethical or illegal. Once you run out of funds there is nothing for us to do."

He said, during the last four to five years, financial aid has had to scramble to spend funds for work study because, at the time, the department could not tell when students would work, even though they were financially eligible for the pro-

gram.

Every student can receive up to \$2,000 to \$3,500, if they are eligible for an academic year, according to Jones.

"We never know how long students are going to work," Jones said.

He said although TSU financial aid can use \$2,000 per student, if it is not used, the financial aid department can lose the funds for the following year.

On the other hand, one student said the loss of work study is not the issue so much as the lack of notification by TSU to work study students.

"I am upset because I was not notified well enough in advance," said Shetima Baugh, a junior political science major from Decatur, Ala. "It took me off guard."

Inevitably, financial aid starts out giving students \$3,500 for an academic year. Students receive six dollars an hour for 20 hours a week on campus.

Jones said some students in this program work off campus and get paid \$8 an hour for 20 hours a week while working at places such as the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

He also added that graduate students who have work study make \$13.49 per hour, if they have been accepted into a graduate program. Furthermore, special graduate students, who may be seeking teacher certification or prerequisites to get into their program of study, make \$10 per hour, according to Jones.

"I am happy that students are working; it's great for us (financial aid)," Jones said, referring to work study fund being exhausted.

Despite this year's mishap, Jones ensures students this will not happen again, and that plans to increase the dollar amount per student are in place.

Therefore, Jones encourages students to turn in their FAFSA application

by the past April 1 deadline and take heed of the new financial aid processing date of August 1.

"Even though, work study ended so suddenly, without any notice," said Ashley Davis, a sophomore psychology major from St. Louis. "I have faith that work study will continue next year and it will help me financially throughout my time here at TSU."

**NEW FINANCIAL
AID PROCESSING
DEADLINE IS
AUG. 1, 2006**

SOURCE: MIKE JONES

Forum

What We Think

Look past apathy, notice those already serving

In an attempt to show "balance" in our "student apathy" editorials, *The Meter* has decided to show the other side – those people who seem to really care about the TSU community.

In a society, and the TSU community for that matter, where individualism seems to have stepped downstage, front and center, we have noted several people whose actions have exemplified what it means to be a part of the Big Blue family.

True enough, there are some people who don't have an invested interest in the betterment of the university, but some administrators, professors, students, and groups are walking inspirations, striding with TSU's name on their chests.

Peggy Earnest, director of residence life; Sylvia Russell, TSU's assistant police chief; and Tamyra Ramsey, a TSU sophomore, all come to mind when thinking of the true Big Blue spirit of persevering through difficult times. These three, who have all been affected

by cancer, have pushed on and now tell their stories to encourage others who battle this life-threatening disease.

Several instructors, as well, have shown deep love and consideration for this university by their everyday actions. Some of said professors are Ernestine Gordon, adjunct faculty in the language, literature and philosophy department; Robert Bradley, coordinator within the office of service learning and civic engagement and professor for the department of languages, literature and philosophy; and Dr. Coreen Jackson, assistant professor of communications. Not only do they show their dedication to the university, these faculty members display selflessness when dealing with students. They seem to really care about TSU and the students who attend.

There are also several students who make a commitment to showing their school spirit and devotion to the enhancement of this university just by being who they are. One such student is Carl "Zorro" Darnell. There is rarely a day when Darnell is not seen traipsing

around campus singing and attempting to increase the morale of his fellow students. He shows a true dedication to the school, especially the athletic department, as he shows his support at various sporting events. Darnell has been referred to as "Tray Man" and "Mr. TSU Man" by students at this university.

And also with close examination, it's evident that the executive search committees are those few among the many with TSU at the center of their hearts.

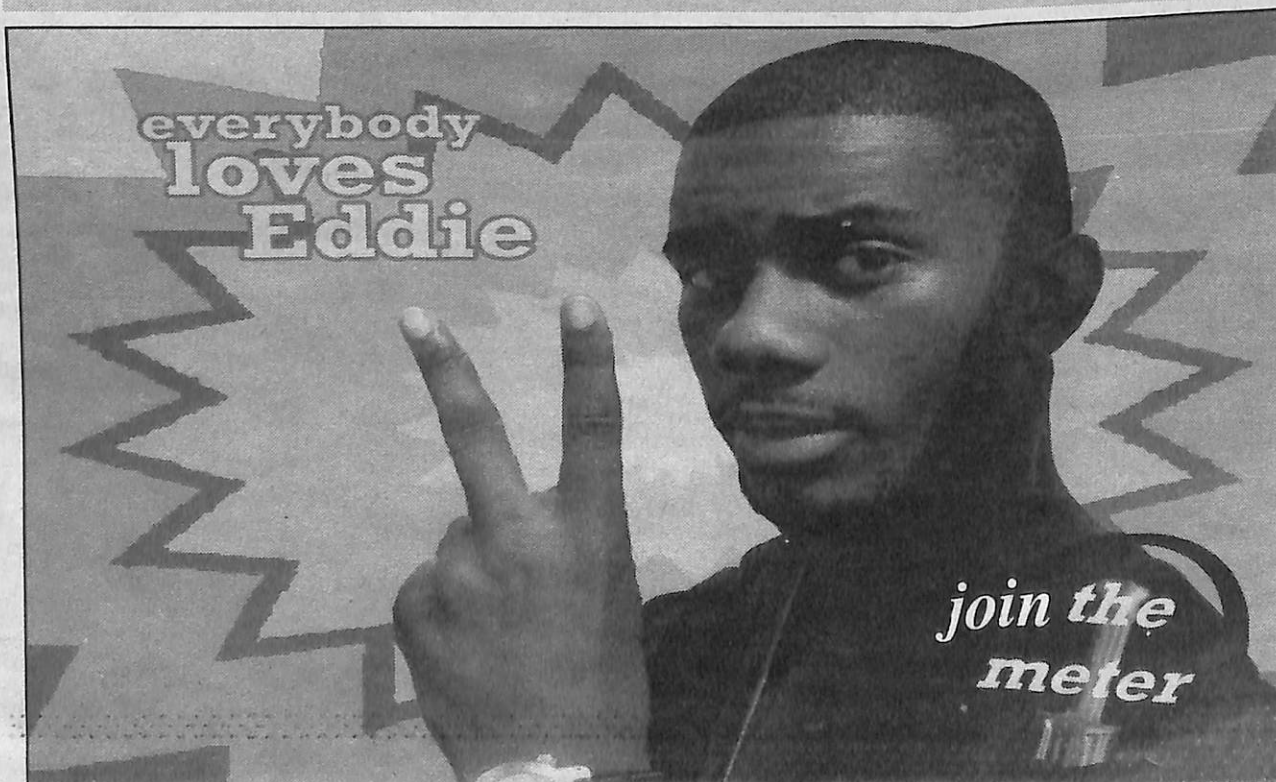
It has been reported in recent issues of *The Meter* that some committee members were displeased with the candidate pool. Though some small trivial swirl of controversy spun out of our coverage of this critical search, most missed the reasoning and underlying reasons for committee members' displeasure.

It could have been easy for the committee to simply select the best of the pool without any second thought. But the fact that someone would even consider expressing concern about the pool needs to be commended. A few of these com-

mittee members weren't hush, hush about their feelings because they knew that TSU needs and deserves the best. Therefore, instead of a slap on the wrist for caring for the university, there should be a hand shake for a valid concern. *The Meter*, unlike some others, acknowledges this, along with those other individuals who put their heart and soul into this university.

TSU is more than an individual's platform for success. It is a family. And the sooner the entire TSU community, from administrators to students, realizes that openness and support toward each other is the key, the sooner we will begin serving the Nashville community on the level that this school's first president, William Jasper Hale, began. •

Be sure to read *The Meter's* final three editions: April 17, 20, and 24.



See page 6
for Student
Election
results

Campus News

Administrator gives hope for cancer survivors

By Keith Richardson
Campus News Writer

At times, directing TSU student housing can be a multi-task job, but for Peggy Earnest it's nothing compared to what she has been through as a cancer survivor.

Earnest, dean of residence life from Helena, Ark., scheduled a mammogram in October 1993 and found nothing. But two months later, her doctor found lumps in her breast.

She said she immediately began chemotherapy six months later, but it was devastating for Earnest because it not only affected her, but her entire family and friends.

"When I found out I was diagnosed with breast cancer, I had people praying for me and kept a positive outlook on life and didn't want to die," Earnest said. "I was also put on a prayer list."

Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that develops from cells of the breast. A malignant tumor is a group of cancer cells that may invade surrounding tissues or spread (metastasize) to distant areas of the body, according to americancancersociety.org. The disease occurs almost entirely in women, but men can get it, too.

Earnest said the doctors at Baptist Hospital noticed her positive attitude while going through this ordeal.

"The doctors treated me wonderfully and even asked me to speak with some of the women with cancer for encouragement, because I had such a positive attitude," said Earnest, referring to her positive attitude while undergoing chemotherapy for six months.

"My situation has taught me to live each day as if it were your last and to embrace people and be positive," Earnest said. "I want to be a voice for those women who look back and say, I didn't even know she had cancer."

She is an active participant in the TSU's annual Relay for Life and has been working with the event for three years. She works on the survivorship

and sponsorship committee, which increases survivor participation with the event. Also, Earnest is a volunteer board member for the American Cancer Society.

Relay for Life is an overnight event from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. that celebrates survivorship for cancer victims and those who have passed away. This event raises money for research and programs throughout the country.

"Her being a survivor, she is the epitome and she didn't let it get her spirit and it has not been a dull moment working with her," said Shenitha Hampton, director of Eppse Residence Hall. "She lives (her) life to the fullest."

She wants to bring awareness to minorities because a majority of white Americans do not do a great job in publicizing cancer towards African-Americans, according to Earnest.

Relay for Life is only active at two HBCUs, TSU and Savannah State University in Georgia; with TSU being the first HBCU to start Relay for Life on campus, according to Earnest. According to the former Miss TSU, Mia Robinson brought Relay for Life to TSU in 1999 due to her grandmother passing of cancer.

"I'm really passionate about Relay for Life and my goal is to have more students and faculties participate in this yearly event," Earnest said. "Cancer seems to be affecting all of us at an early age; you should schedule regular check ups with your doctor, and that's for women and men."

Earnest said students have really helped her by talking to her and just sparking great conversations around campus. She also mentioned that you have to take control of your health because no one else will.

"I'm blessed to be alive, because there are a lot of people who have died because of breast cancer," said Earnest, referring to what keeps her smiling everyday. "My smile eases my pain as well as others, and everyday I wake up and pray, and at night because 13 years is not a small task for being alive." •

Eppse Hall is a consistent Relay for Life top fundraiser

Continued from page 1

Hampton, director of Eppse Hall. "I'm very excited about this event and its raising money, and it shows TSU how we can come together and support the fight against cancer."

Hampton said every year, Eppse Hall raises \$1,000 to support the Relay for Life event and the last five years, the residence hall has raised a total of \$5,000.

The Relay for Life event is the largest community fund raiser in the world. This occasion offers everyone in a community to partake in the fight against cancer. It also represents hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, and to those who face cancer will be supported. And one day cancer will be eliminated, according to Hampton's e-mail to *The Meter*.

"I'm very passionate about Relay for Life, because my maternal grandmother died of cancer and my paternal grandmother is a survivor of cancer," said Mardreus Harris, a senior interdisciplinary studies major from Somerville, Tenn. "It's very dear to me and I'm excited about it because we are the first HBCU of two (colleges) that do Relay for Life."

Harris said this is the fourth consecutive year participating in this event and he has served as co-chairman for two

years.

Relay for Life is scheduled to last 12 hours, usually through the night. The opening ceremony highlights the cancer survivors walking the first lap. Cancer survivors are also honored and remembered during the luminaria ceremony, which took place at 9 p.m. While soft music played, numerous names were read during this part of the ceremony.

"I was thanking God, because I knew I was a stage 2," said Navita Gunter, a cervical cancer survivor who walked five laps, with her arms high expressing her emotions of being cancer free.

Some other cancer survivors present were Peggy Earnest, dean of residence life; Sylvia Russell, TSU assistant police chief and Tamyra Ramsey, a sophomore athletic training major from Chattanooga.

"(This is an) excellent event that continues to raise the spirits by those who have been affected by cancer," said Dominique Stephens, another co-chairperson, and a junior political science major from Seattle, Wash. "I'm proud that TSU has Relay for Life and it shows that we care and are striving for a change." •

See Relay for Life photos on page 7.

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Campus News

Spain: I feel truly blessed

Continued from page 1

Spain, a junior speech communication and theatre major from Memphis, who won with the campaign slogan "A voyage to Spain: A brighter view for TSU," said she is ready to serve TSU.

"I feel truly blessed," said Spain, who tallied 581 votes, a staggering 469 more than the next closest candidate. "If it hadn't been for God none of this would be possible. None of this would be possible for me to represent the (TSU) community and I will do it to the fullest."

Olojo, a junior business administration major with supply chain concentration from Detroit, defeated Hodari P.T. Brown by a count of 559 to 487.

Based on the slogan of "raising the bar" for TSU, Olojo said his next step is to follow through on the commitment of elevating the university.

"I'm overjoyed. It's truly a dream come true," said Olojo. "Now TSU can look for SGA to have a new flavor. We're keeping the good things and getting rid of the bad and pushing forward with the objective of 'raising the bar'...."

"Look for SGA to have a real student focus."

The election also named five students to the Representative-at-Large day position and seven to the Representative-at-Large evening position.

Though open for seven people, rep-at-large day only elected five students due to the lack of student participation running for the position. Candidate Keith

Batts, however, tallied the most of the five with 828 votes.

At the rep-at-large evening position, candidate Antione "Twan" Searcy tallied the most votes with 729.

Mikesha Russell and Christina Dobbs were elected junior class representative-day and evening representatives, respectively. Sophomore class representative-day is to be Warren Burke. No one ran for senior class representative posts or sophomore class representative evening.

Ashlee Akins, Keshia Dalcour, and Candice Witt were elected Miss Sophomore, Miss Junior and Miss Senior, respectively. Ashley Floyd won sophomore class president, LaShaun Brown was elected junior class president and no one campaigned for senior class president.

Elected graduate student SGA representative is Michaela Brathwaite.

Though many candidates sought positions unopposed while some positions weren't sought at all, Evans said the 2006-07 SGA is still ready to build a relationship with the student body open the lines of communication.

"I'm excited and I think we have a good group," said Evans, a senior English major from Atlanta, who ran unopposed and acknowledges the lack of student participation. "It's a little discouraging, but we're not going to let that stop us."*

2006 Student Election Results

SGA president:
Hodari P.T. Brown - 487
Ayodeji Olojo - 559

SGA vice president:
Matthew Evans - 935

Miss TSU:
Sheena Buford - 48
Christiane Buggs - 112
Chanda Ford - 53
Crystal McKenney - 17
Tara Russell - 110
Latasha Shepherd - 81
Dairanetta Spain - 581
Shaana Worlds - 39

Rep-at-large (day):
Keith E. Batts - 828
Tarrence R. Harris - 823
Finesstra D. Moore - 785
Gerald Onouha - 820
Latia S. Thomas - 792

Rep-at-large (evening):
Michael Baylis - 587
Korey Boykin - 687
McLisa V. Davis - 642
Brandon Hubbard - 659
Regena A. Patterson - 626
Patrick Walker-Reese - 604
Antione "Twan" Searcy - 729
James E. Smith - 623
Kevin E. Terrell - 633

Miss Senior:
Brittini Barnes - 75
Majoronette Jefferson - 62
Candice Witt - 115

Miss Junior:
Keshia S. Dalcour - 73
Amber S. Todd - 72
Valerie Felder - 50
Summer S. Johnson - 51

Miss Sophomore:
Ashlee Akins - 199
Denise Kirk - 106

Senior Class President:
N/A

Junior Class President:
LaShaun D. Brown - 239

Sophomore Class President:
Ashley D. Floyd - 290

Graduates Rep. Day:
N/A

Graduates Rep. Evening:
Michaela Brathwaite

Senior Class Rep. Day:
N/A

Senior Class Rep. Evening:
N/A

Junior Class Rep. Day:
Mikesha C. Russell - 239

Junior Class Rep. Evening:
Christina N. Dobbs - 162
Jaismen M. Diaz - 78

Sophomore Class Rep. Day:
Warren Burke - 280

Sophomore Class Rep. Evening:
N/A

* Winners in bold

Left to Right:
Ayodeji Olojo,
Dairanetta Spain,
and Matthew Evans
pose after the
announcement of the
2006-2007 student
elections.

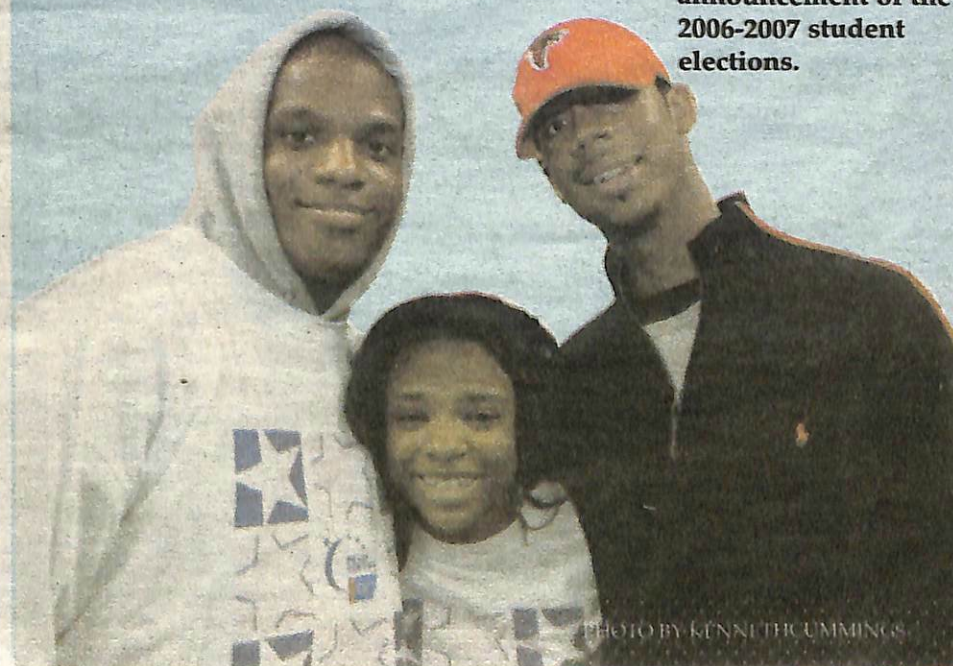


PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

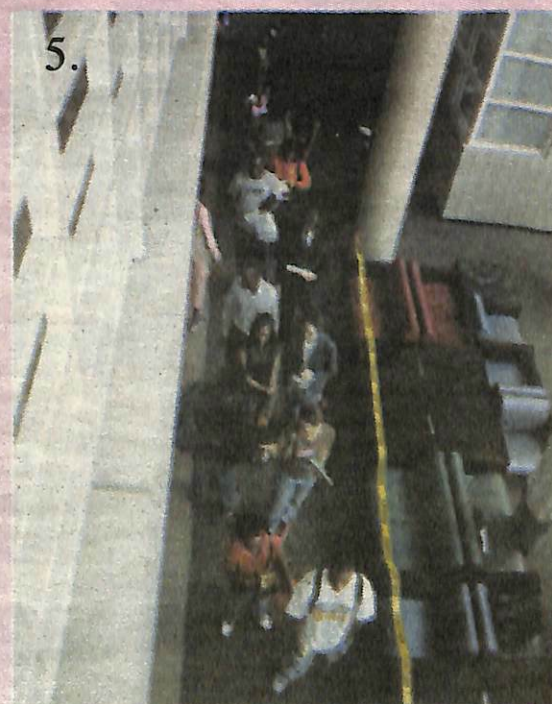
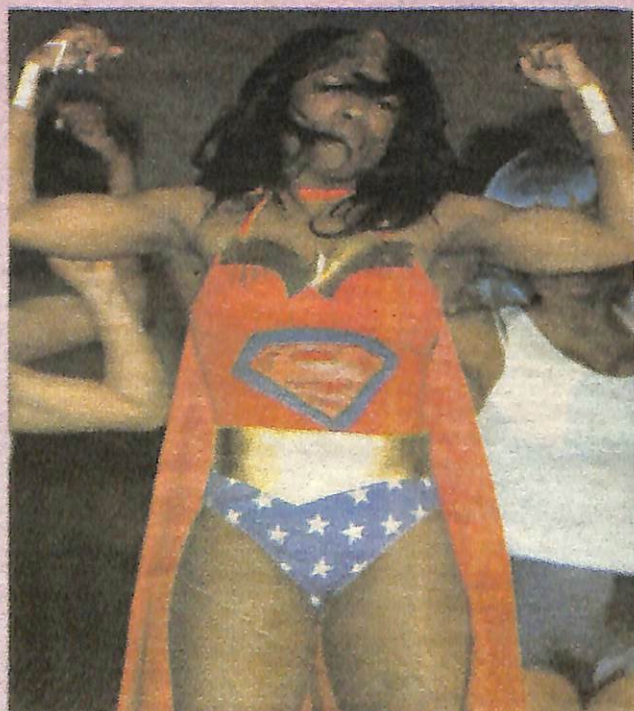
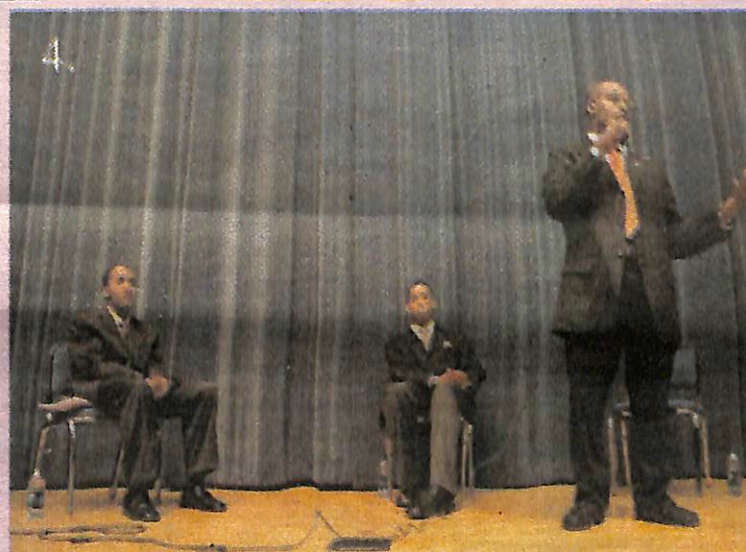
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before it goes to print on
tsumeter.com

Campus News

SEC Week, Relay for Life Photos



- 1) Four cancer survivors take part in the annual Relay for Life cancer walk.
- 2) Nigel Bridgeforth entertains the Relay for Life crowd with a violin solo.
- 3) Students enjoy a game of Twister during Relay for Life festivities.
- 4) Hodari P.T. Brown, SGA Vice President elect Matthew Evans, and SGA President elect Ayodeji Olojo at the presidential debate on Monday, April 3.
- 5) Students turn out to vote for their favorite candidates.
- 6) Candace Witt is circled by fellow Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. members after the announcements of the winners at Relay for Life.
- 7) Newly elected Miss TSU Dairanetta Spain flexes as Superwoman during the personality scene of the 2006 Miss TSU pageant.



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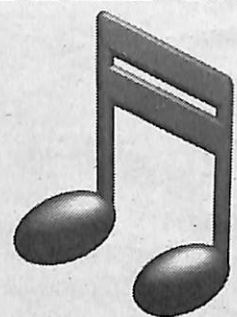
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A black and white photograph showing a group of people at a food festival. In the foreground, a man is serving food from a large tray. Other people are standing around, some looking at the food. The background shows the structure of a large tent.



Howard student scores with cartoon while 'Boondocks' takes sabbatical

By Ashley R. Harris
Black College Wire

Boondocks fanatics may have a reason to stop fretting over the disappearance of their beloved, often-beleaguered comic strip.

Aaron McGruder, its creator, is taking what was announced as a six-month sabbatical from the daily strip, returning in October.

Like many papers, the *Houston Chronicle* put a notice in the *Boondocks* space to alert readers. *Bye-Bye Boondocks*, *Boondocks'* creator has taken a break. In the meantime, we're reviewing fresh comic strips. Watch this space for something new," it said.

The *Washington Post Writers Group*, which syndicates features to newspapers, is hoping it has found the right something.

It launched Cory Thomas' *Watch Your Head* strip on March 27. The strip now appears in 15 newspapers, including the *Chicago Tribune*, *St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press* and *Seattle Times*, according to Alan Shearer, editorial director and general manager of the writers

group. Some, such as the *Washington Post*, are running it as a test. *Watch Your Head* is one of three it plans to test for eight weeks.

For Thomas, 31, timing truly was everything. The comic was sent out to six different syndicates with the hope that one would bite, and in January, the *Washington Post Writers Group* did.

Syndication by the writers group was the payoff after years of drawing and sketching. He began as a child in Trinidad, encouraged by small surprises from his father.

"I've pretty much started drawing ever since I could hold a pen," Thomas said. "And I've been reading comics ever since I could read.

"My dad would come home from work with a comic for me."

At age 23, Thomas left his native San Fernando, Trinidad, and came to the States to begin a career as a mechanical engineer. He enrolled at Howard University in 1998 with a major in mechanical engineering and graduated in 2002.

At Howard, Thomas worked for the school newspaper the *Hilltop*, where he served as an editorial cartoonist and showcased some of the earlier versions

of *Watch Your Head*.

"I was mainly the editorial cartoonist," Thomas said. "Those were popular, but the strip didn't run long enough to get popular at the *Hilltop*."

However, his editorial-page work did win acclaim, including an award for best editorial cartoon in the 2004 HBCU "Excellence in Journalism" Student Newspaper Contest.

Thomas returned to Howard to begin a master's in engineering program and expects to graduate this summer.

Watch Your Head is set at the fictional Oliver Otis University and focuses on the lives of six students, five black and one white.

The time Thomas took to craft his characters impressed the writers group, which was also shopping other cartoons, such as Darrin Bell's *Candorville*, launched in 2003, as a *Boondocks* replacement.

"He exhibited a lot of maturity as far as character development," Amy Lago, comics editor for the writers group, said. "He has a fully developed cast, along the lines of Schulz," a reference to Charles Schulz, creator of *Peanuts*.

"There are some cartoonists that work off of one or two characters, but he

has a true ensemble," she added.

The appeal of *Watch Your Head* does not stop with the relationships among the characters. Thomas has a comic voice that Lago said will attract audiences of all ages.

"The great thing is that he really appeals to young readers, but in a way that adults can appreciate," according to the comics editor. "He's really got a sense of what college is about."

The bottom line for Thomas is being funny.

"My number one priority is to make people laugh," Thomas said. "I want to create and explore different topics, but if I'm doing that and no one's laughing, then I'm not doing my job."

Until *Watch Your Head* takes the world by storm, Thomas plans to keep studying and working as a mechanical engineer, joking. "I'm gonna need a day job."

But maybe not for long. "This is not a short-term thing," Lago noted. "We have a long-term contract."

Ashley R. Harris is a senior print communications major at the University of Houston. •

DVD on Emmett Till death aims to "Keep the Pressure On"

By Rebecca Roussell
Black College Wire

Filmmaker Keith Beauchamp's drive for justice in one of the nation's most infamous unresolved cases has opened eyes and hearts. It also helped prompt an investigation that might be near much-needed closure.

Beauchamp, 34, has spent the past nine years researching and interviewing witnesses for a documentary on the brutal murder of 14-year-old Emmett Louis

Till, which in 1955 put an unforgettable face on the beginnings of the civil rights movement.

Till allegedly whistled at a white woman. For it, Till was abducted from his great-uncle's home in Money, Miss.; tortured, beaten and shot by men who attached his annihilated body to a cotton-gin fan and threw him in a river to die. No one was ever convicted of the crime.

"We are at a very critical stage at this point," said Beauchamp, director of *The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till*, issued on Feb. 28 to mark the 50th anniversary of the teen's death. "We are releasing the

DVD to continue to keep the pressure on and have the public support my efforts. I need all the support I can get at this point."

Beauchamp's research helped put pressure on the U.S. Justice Department to reopen the Till case in May 2004.

The two men originally charged with kidnapping and murder, Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, tried in 1955, were acquitted by an all-white jury. Later, they sold their confession to *Look* magazine, but a grand jury still refused to indict them. They have since died, but Beauchamp was able to find new witnesses. Among them are 14 people who might have participated in the killing and who are still alive.

"We believe that they were forced to participate in the crime," Beauchamp said of some of the others. Based on his research, he theorized that five among the 14 could be indicted in Till's slaying.

So far, no indictments have come. The FBI has wrapped up its inquiry and sent the information to the district attorney in Mississippi, who will decide whether there should be new charges.

The 70-minute documentary includes recent color footage shot by Beauchamp and restored black-and-white archival film from previous media coverage. The documentary also features accounts from witnesses, some of whom speak publicly for the first time.

See "Till" on page 10

Arts & Entertainment

Lyricist Lounge

It's All Gone

By Deslyn Williams

Do you know how it feels
to wake up with nothing?
To go to sleep with everything
that you cherished as something
To come home from work
and think it's just rain
But to turn on NBC
and see it's not a game
To gather your most valuables
and your children too
To look for a place of shelter
that you feel is cool
3 days passed now
and you still think its rain
Because the governor and the mayor
won't declare an evacuation plan
That Friday Ray Nag in
says we got to leave
But to go where with who and no keys
Everybody's trying
to gather in one to leave
But yet in all the
traffic you couldn't believe
To think in your head
you'll be back tomorrow
But for the American people to see our
President has no sorrow
For my sister a child
to see my mother cry and cry
But to walk up the street and you see
people/children dying
Old people stuck outside
no food no water
And Bush still showed
no emotion of sorrow
Still stuck in traffic for 10 hours
The car never moved
so we set and picked flowers
We finally made it
to Mississippi in one day
But to pull up
and see we was already to late
The rain came harder
the wind blew stronger
The next thing you know
we ran into a tunnel
The eye of the storm
was headed straight for us
But we prayed and prayed and
God really showed up
The next day we woke up
and turned on the news
To listen to Ray Nag in argue his views

They say the water was 30 feet tall
But ain't it's funny how
they never finished the levee walls
All the other people
on the white side was safe
But all of the black communities
looked like they was in black drapes
To turn to the next station and see my
mother on a roof with a Help Us sign
That's when me and brother
just started to cry
The coast guards, the military,
the army they all came
But it took almost four days I guess the
president really took this as a game
They rescued my mother
took her to a safe place
But to get there
in see my lil cousin getting rapped
They finally moved us to
Houston Astor Dome
For some of us,
soon to be our new home
To sleep with thousand of strangers
But to wake up
knowing you're still in danger
To get misplaced because
of something you couldn't control
But the people in Texas
showed us how to be bold
To be living better
than you ever imagined
But to still be sad
because of your past tense
I guess that was God's way
of taking us out
And I thank you Jesus but I would have
rathered stayed in my old house
My whole family is doing better
That's the reason I didn't write
FEMA an appeal letter
To me I still feel Tennessee
is my new home
I guess that's because
New Orleans is all gone!!!!!!

Till memory brought to silver screen

Continued from page 9

Family members and friends talk about joyous memories of young Till, as well as the moment that will live in their minds forever: the day he died. Present-day leaders, including the Rev. Al Sharpton, offer opinions.

Beauchamp captures the strength and dedication of Till's mother, Mamie Till Mobley of Chicago, in powerful, priceless accounts that will remain etched in the minds of viewers.

"I don't want his death to be a vain thing," Mobley said. "If it can further the cause of freedom, then I will say that he died a hero."

Mobley vividly describes the first time she saw her son's remains in the coffin, and her decision to have an open-casket funeral. She wanted the United States to see what racism had done to her beloved son.

Beauchamp said he was 10 years old when he was introduced by his parents to Till's story. He viewed the vivid images of Till's corpse in a 1955 issue of Jet magazine, and read the coverage of the funeral.

Then, in 1989, Beauchamp had an experience that hearkened back to Till. As a senior in high school, he was beaten by a white undercover police officer in his hometown of Baton Rouge, La. His crime? Dancing with one of his white friends at a school dance.

We "went into a room and he handcuffed me to a chair and had his way with me," Beauchamp said. "The whole time I was thinking, 'Oh God! What is going to happen to me?'" Beauchamp said he thought about Till then. The police officer was dismissed from the force some years later, he said.

Beauchamp enrolled at Southern University in Baton Rouge to study civil law and criminal justice. He withdrew in his junior year to move to New York to pursue work in the film industry.

"The Till story had always been a part of me and it was always on my mind," Beauchamp said. In 1995, he met Till's mother, who gave him her trust. "That sealed the deal," he said. Beauchamp worked with Mobley until her death in 2003, and promised to keep going until he found the answers. With financial support from his parents, Beauchamp's dream was on its way to reality.

The documentary is an eye-opener for viewers who were not alive during the civil rights movement and who might know little of the case.

It puts a human face on how segregation tore the nation apart. The DVD, issued by ThinkFilm and available through emmetttillstory.com, popular book retailers on the Internet and select-ed retailers nationwide, gives us not only the startling images of how Till was treated, but a detailed view of life for black people in the South.

Beauchamp said he strongly believes the civil rights movement of the '50s and '60s has not ended, and that black college students have a voice now more than ever.

"It is going to be up to us to continue to keep up that torch of life," he said.

"Right now we are lost . . . we don't have anyone, so we have to do it ourselves and it has to be done correctly," he said.

Rebecca Roussell is a senior at Dillard University.

Lyricist Lounge
Acceptance

By Andre Johnson

Accept me as I am
Because unlike you
perfection is outside my grasp
And my flaws and downfalls
are not hidden behind a mask
I am all that you see
Please accept me
Not only for what I am, but what I will be.

TSU Sports



THE METER

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Weather could not stop storming Tigers

By LaVonte Young
Interim Sports Editor

A tornado watch was in effect for the TSU campus and Metro-Nashville area for most of the day on Friday and into the early hours of Saturday, April 8.

But that could not stop the TSU football team from storming the field Saturday for the annual Blue-White spring football game in "The Hole."

The annual Blue and White spring football scrimmage saw the split-squad team play down to a sudden-death overtime resulting in a 20-17 White team victory.

In William J. Hale stadium, also known as "The Hole," the White team, who was comprised of the second team offense and defense, struck first with a first quarter touchdown pass off of quar-

terback Richard Hartman's bootleg. However, the Blue team, who was comprised of the first team offensive and defense, would respond quickly with a touchdown and field goal to take a 10-7.

Starting the third quarter, White team quarterback David Pringle hooked up with wide receiver Orentheos Taylor for a long touchdown to give the squad a 14-10 lead. But Blue running back Denard Cox bounced back with a 10-yard touchdown run to lift his team to a 17-14 lead.

"I think that we played well today," said Cox, a sophomore who majors in criminal justice. "But we came in to the game thinking that we were better than the White team and they came out and beat us."

As the game came down the stretch, Pringle led the White team into scoring. See "Interception" on page 12



PHOTO BY KENNETH CUMMINGS

TSU kicker Micah Streiff kicks the winning field goal for the White team during the annual Blue and White game. The White team won 20-17 on Saturday, April 8.

Losey may be key to Tigers' football success

By Phil Baker
Contributing Writer

Strength and conditioning coach Chuck Losey has an unusual method of developing the athletes of the TSU football program.

It's not about building the individual, but it's about building the team.

"Evaluation was the key, we evaluated each player and the team as a whole," said Losey. "I found I wanted to take a different approach to coaching, I wanted to attack a team atmosphere. The team works as one group, incorporating a team cadence and team workout."

Losey, a former Vanderbilt University football standout, was hired in August, 2004 as TSU's head strength coach. He was brought to TSU to fill the vacant position, after a stint at

Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tenn. as defensive line coach and head strength and conditioning coordinator.

He came to Cumberland after graduating from Vanderbilt with a bachelor's degree in human and organizational development. He is a certified strength and conditioning specialist through the National Strength and Conditioning Association.

"My experience at TSU has been a good one," Losey said. "I have no complaints. The athletic department is on the way up."

And now he insists every morning that he comes in for work with last season's record 2-9 for inspiration. Now, following the season Losey went to work right away, trying to pinpoint the factors that aided to TSU worst season in recent years.

Losey said his coaching style is

Olympic-based, where he incorporates numerous explosive movements with every lift. He said he believes this Olympic based teaching and intensity is the key to his strength and conditioning program.

"Intensity is the key to my program," Losey said. "If you give my program to two guys that working out in separate gyms. They are both going to make gains, but if you don't have intensity, you are not going to maximize the program."

Travis Lee, a junior health science major from New Orleans and wide receiver for the Tigers, seems to agree.

When asked about Losey's program, he described it one word — "intense."

Eugene Banks, a junior mass communication major from Chattanooga, feels this off-season helped him and brought the team closer.

"Coach Losey's off season program has helped me lose some weight and it has brought our team together now since we work out and do our conditioning together."

Losey believes the team has made great strides this off-season beginning with the objective for the team to get bigger and get the players in game-type situation shape.

In this off-season alone, Losey has four times as many players power cleaning over 300 pounds, doubled the 400 pounds benchers, and the entire team has increased their weights significantly. A power clean is lift that strengthens your legs, back and your arms. The bench press is a lift that strengthens your chest.

"This year we have implemented a lot more conditioning aspects to our training," said Losey. "The main differ-

See "Team" on page 12

Sports

Team conditions together

Continue from page 11

ence between this year and last year is the emphasis we put on conditioning and weights. This off season the players did conditioning together on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings and it has build out teams' unity. Our goal in the weight room is for each player to reach the 3-4-5 mark. We want our players to reach 300 pounds on the clean, 400 pounds on bench, and 500 pounds on squat."

Even though the Tigers have made great gains in the weight room and in conditioning, he insists he hasn't done it alone. He accredits the team success to his assistant Bryan Jovic's work ethic.

Jovic who was brought in August 2005 after he has coached at four Division-I schools before joining the Tigers.

"Bringing in coach Jovic really helps us out," said Losey. "This season

is different than last season because Jovic is here and has input on what is going on and last season we did not have that."

Jovic said, "The difference between this season and last off-season is that the staff has grown, it gives us ability work with more players. We also got the team to work out and do conditioning together and it has brought the team closer together."

According to Losey, this summer strength and conditioning program is essential to prepare TSU football team for the 2006 season.

Losey believes the summer is going to dictate the record and that is when he can really scale the team's capability.

"The summer is going to dictate what our record is," Losey said. "No doubt we can have a winning season if we transfer the off season to the summer. My program is a bout staying consistent throughout the summer." •

"The difference between this season and last off-season is that the staff has grown, it gives us ability work with more players...."

-Bryan Jovic

Interception gives White chance

Continued from page 11

territory just close enough for a Micah Streiff field goal to tie the game at 17.

The White team then stepped up and forced Blue quarterback Antonio Heffner to throw an interception to White's Dez Green during sudden death overtime.

"I feel that we did a pretty good job on offense on what we showed," said Fred Kaiss, the Tigers' newly hired offensive coordinator. "But we still have a lot work to do."

Ron Lambert, the Tigers' newly hired defensive coordinator, said, "We did an overall good job on defense, but we still have strides to make."

Eventually, after inching within the Blue team's 10-yard line, Streiff booted another field goal to give the White team

a victory in front of approximately 2,000 onlookers.

"I'm satisfied with our performance," said TSU head football coach James Webster. "Today our linemen had to play both on the Blue and White, and with our recruits coming in we will have more depth in those positions."

Sports Writer Carl Erskine Davis Jr contributed to this report.

See the Tigers officially kick off the 2006 season at the John A. Merritt Classic on Sept. 2, 2006.



Tiger Top 5



1. Melanie Cruz - infielder

freshman - business, management and marketing

Cruz went four of five from the plate against Southeast Missouri State on Saturday, April 8.

2. Leena Worrell - pitcher/infielder

senior - education

Butte, Mont.

Worrell was three of four at bat against SEMO on Saturday, April 8.

3. Nira Robbins - infielder

senior -

During a three-game series against UT-Martin on the weekend of April 1-2, Cruz had five hits and four runs batted in.

4. Candance Hildebrand - pitcher

junior -

She pitched six inning allowing one run and striking out three against SEMO on April 8.

5. Erin Finneran - catcher/infielder

junior - business, management, marketing

Morrison, Ill.

Finneran recorded one hit and had two assist against UT Martin on Sunday, April 2.

Lady Tigers drop three to UT-Martin

The TSU softball team was swept 6-1, 10-2 and 2-1 by the Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks on the weekend of April 1-2.

Game one saw TSU run into UT-Martin's hard throwing freshman Ashley Myatt, who only gave up one run and pitched seven strike outs. UT-Martin scored first in the bottom of the second inning when Emily Webb scored from third base on a wild pitch. Christa Webb drove in the second run of the inning with a single which drove Lauren Manna in to score. The Skyhawks drove another run in the fourth inning and drove in two more in the sixth which sealed the game. In the seventh inning, TSU got on the when Nira Robbins doubled and scored Samantha Hurst.

In Game two, the Tigers struck first in the third inning when Nira Robbins

hit a two-run home run. The Skyhawks thundered back in the fourth inning scoring four runs which was capped off when Christa Webb hit a bases loaded double that scored three runs. Brittany Nash knocked a single that scored Webb, who was on second base, which gave the Skyhawks a 5-1 lead.

The Skyhawks added two more runs in the fifth inning and in the sixth inning they scored three run to put the Tigers away.

Game three the Tigers scored first on a wild pitch scoring Nira Robbins, but the Skyhawks once again would prove to be too strong for the Tigers. The Skyhawks got a two run home run from Justine Pineda in the fourth inning which proved to be the game winner.

Compiled by LaVonte Young and based on reports from utmsports.com

Tiger Brief